



For Immediate Release:
May 2, 2006

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Congressman John Conyers, Jr. Introduces Bicameral Bipartisan Legislation to Extend Voting Rights Act

Washington, DC. – Today, Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI) joined his House colleagues and Members of the Senate to announce Congress' full support for Extending the Voting Rights Act. As Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, Congressman Conyers has worked tirelessly with his Republican counterpart, Chairman Sensenbrenner, and fellow Democrat, Congressman Mel Watt, who is also the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Congressman Conyers was sworn into Office the same year the historic Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965. Now the dean of the Congressional Black Caucus, that year he was one of only six black Members. There were five Hispanic Members and only four Asian Americans. "Today, our combined Caucuses represent nearly twenty percent of the entire Congress, an indisputable result of the Voting Rights Act," noted Congressman Conyers.



"The Voting Rights Act is one of this nation's most important civil rights victories. It memorializes those individuals of all races and walks of life who marched, persevered, and even died, to secure the right to vote for all Americans. The Act is not only a tribute to those who marched on Bloody Sunday; it is the bedrock of American democracy, an indispensable chapter in our journey toward a just society.

I want to thank my good friends Chairman Sensenbrenner and Congressman Mel Watt, as well as the great leaders in the Senate who have taken on this important commitment. The bottom line is, we must work together to accomplish this task, and get this legislation to the President's desk by the summer."

##109-JUD-050206##